



BUREAU
INTERNATIONAL
DES DROITS DES ENFANTS

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FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

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LOS DERECHOS DEL NIÑO

Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Newsletter

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Submitted by: the International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR)

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1. Global developments on Children's rights

DFID report: "Youth Participation in Development: A Guide for Development Agencies and Policy Makers"

A guide is made by DFID CSO Youth Working Group. The Youth Participation Guide has been developed through an innovative process led by young people, which itself has reinforced their capacity to participate and lead. The Guide demonstrates how young people can positively contribute to development in operational areas which are organizational development, policy and planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. It also draws together case studies, resources and practical 'how to' guidance from around the world, and draws on Sharing and Learning Networks established in two focus countries: Nepal and Uganda.

[Full report](#) (DFID CSO Youth Working Group)

Forum on Children in Armed Conflict: Seeking ideas for project proposals

The Forum's Steering Committee approved a decision to allocate specific resources to support the production of a few project proposals on behalf of the Forum, to seek support from various sources of funding to work on issues that would correspond to the mandate of the Forum and that would improve the situation of children in armed conflict. As a result, you are invited to submit your ideas on what kind of projects the Forum could be working on in the upcoming year. Please be as specific with your ideas as possible. It would be also very useful if you could recommend some sources of funding that you think we should approach to pursue these ideas. It would be most useful if you could share these ideas by Friday, 7 May 2010, in order for us to take them into account in our next planning.

UNICEF: Humanitarian Action Report 2010

Each year, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) responds to more than 200 emergencies around the world, working with governments, civil society, communities, private companies and nongovernmental organisations to meet urgent needs, protect children's and women's rights, and take decisive action to improve resilience, strengthen capacities and reduce risks. In nearly all of these emergencies, the organisation's response is based on existing programs, partnerships and resources. Its mission, in both humanitarian and developmental contexts, is to promote and protect children's rights, help meet their basic needs and expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. This latest edition of UNICEF's Humanitarian Action Report highlights 28 of the most pressing crises. It explains how UNICEF is partnering with others to save lives and rebuilds families and communities.

[Full report](#) (UNICEF)

"Why law matters for children's survival" by Save the Children UK

A policy brief called "Why law matters for children's survival" is made by Save the Children UK. This briefing shows how pushing for laws where they don't exist, and putting pressure on governments to enforce existing laws, can play an important role in improving children's healthcare, nutrition, education, access to water and sanitation, protection from discrimination. States have a binding obligation, enshrined in international law, to respect,

protect and realise children's right to survival. But in practice governments often violate this right. Every year 8.8 million children die before their fifth birthday. This is not inevitable. The life chances of children are heavily influenced by policy choices made by governments.

[Full report](#) (Save the Children UK)

New online guide on children's medicines could save 9 million lives annually – UN

30 April 2010 – Two United Nations agencies have released a new online guide providing essential medicines formulated for children, an instrument that could potentially prevent nine million child deaths from preventable and treatable causes every year. “Improved availability and access to safe child-specific medicines is still far from reality for many children in poor countries,” said Hans Hogerzeil, Director of Essential Medicines and Pharmaceutical Policies at the UN World Health Organization (WHO). The second edition of Sources and Prices of Selected Medicines for Children, released by WHO and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), will help doctors and organizations obtain some of the 240 essential medicines that can save children's lives. It also offers details on therapeutic food, and vitamin and mineral supplements, to treat major childhood illnesses and diseases.

[Full article](#) – UNICEF

[Online Guide](#)

UN official urges rich nations' leaders to help end child malnutrition

27 April 2010 – The head of the United Nations food agency urged leaders of the Group of 8 (G8) industrialized nations to make combating child malnutrition a pillar of their summit in Canada in June, claiming that poor nutrition is responsible for the death of 3.5 million children every year. “No issue is more urgent, or more foundational to other development goals, than getting maternal and child nutrition right,” said Josette Sheeran, Executive Director of the UN World Food Program (WFP). “The G8 summit can become a tipping point where the world can rally to make child malnutrition history,” Ms. Sheeran added.

[Full article](#) – UN News center

UN agencies launch latest factbook for taking care of children

7 April 2010 – Six United Nations agencies and the World Bank launched a revised book that provides life-saving information to families and communities on how to prevent child and maternal deaths, diseases, injuries and violence. “Through simple messages, *Facts for Life* aims to bring vital knowledge to parents and caregivers, who are the first line of defence in protecting children from illness and harm,” said Ann Veneman, Executive Director of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), which co-published the book. First published in 1989 and updated on a regular basis, the book provides practical advice on pregnancy, childbirth, major childhood illnesses, child development, early learning, parenting, protection, care and support for children.

[Full article](#) – UNICEF

[Full Publication](#)

[Full publication \(French\)](#)

Lack of clean water impacts children's learning and health, UNICEF warns

5 April 2010 – Many schools in poorer countries lack adequate water and sanitation facilities, affecting children's educations and even claiming lives, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) warns in a new report. "Millions of children in the developing world go to schools which have no drinking water or clean latrines – basic things that many of us take for granted," said Sigrid Kaag, the agency's Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, at the publication's launch today in Dubai. Produced with the UN World Health Organization (WHO) and partner non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the report notes that 1.5 million children under the age of five die every year of diarrhoea due to unsafe water, inadequate sanitation and lack of hygiene.

[Full article](#) – UNICEF

[Full Report](#)

Professor Robbie Gilligan elected new Childwatch President

26 April 2010 – Professor Robbie Gilligan, Head of the School of Social Work and Social Policy at Trinity College Dublin has been elected President of Childwatch International Research Network. Marta Arango, Director of CINDE - the International Center for Education and Human Development, Colombia and Roseline September, Professor in the Faculty of Community Health Sciences at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa have been elected Vice Presidents.

[Full article](#) – Childwatch international research network

Call for applications for HREA distance learning courses - September-November 2010

HREA is issuing a call for applications for the following e-learning courses, which will be offered in the third trimester of 2010 (September-November):

- [Armed Conflict, Human Rights and Humanitarian Law](#)
- [Election Observation NEW!](#)
- [Gender and Peacebuilding](#)
- [Gender Mainstreaming NEW!](#)
- [Genocide: What Role for International Law?](#)
- [Human Rights Advocacy](#)
- [La Programmation axée sur des droits de l'enfant NEW!](#)
- [Le Monitoring des droits de l'enfant](#)
- [Le Plaidoyer pour les droits humains](#)
- [Monitoring & Evaluation in the NGO Sector](#)
- [Monitoring Children's Rights](#)
- [Project Development and Management in the NGO Sector](#)
- [The European System of Human Rights Protection and Promotion](#)
- [The United Nations Human Rights System](#)
- [Women in War and Armed Conflicts](#)

Please note that the registration deadline for these courses Tuesday, **1 June 2010**.

Applications can be submitted online. For further information about each course please click on the course link above.

E-Conference: engendering empowerment – Education and Equality

To open up the discussion and allow the broadest possible participation in the E4 initiative, we will be holding an e-conference prior to the E4 conference in Dakar in May. The e-conference will take place over a period of 5 weeks, between **April 12th and May 14th**. Each week will focus on one of the themes emerging from the situation analysis produced for the conference.

[For further information](#) – ENGEI

World Summit on Media for Children and Youth: Towards a New Global Vision for Children Youth and Media

World Summit on Media for Children and Youth will take place in Karlstad, Sweden 2010. It will be a summit for 2000 delegates from 100 countries preparing with children and youth for a new media world in the 21st century. It will offer opportunities to network, to be part of debates, to be interactive and to be part of workshops to share perspectives, experience and expertise.

[For further information](#) – Childwatch international research network

International Conference: Childhood and Youth in Transition

The Centre for the Study of Childhood and Youth at the University of Sheffield is organising its 3rd International Conference. In the context of global social, political and economic changes the conference this year will explore the ways in which these broad shifts are having an impact on ideas of childhood and youth and on children's and young people's everyday lives.

[For further information](#) – University of Sheffield

International Refugee Law and Contemporary Challenges

This short certificate course offered by HREA and the Human Rights Center of the University for Peace introduces participants to the international system for refugee protection, from the historical, legal, theoretical and practical perspectives. This e-learning course is designed to provide a comprehensive picture to participants of how and why refugee protection is indispensable from the historical and human rights perspective, what are their needs and available legal protections, which are the relevant actors involved in refugee protection and what are the challenges facing today's refugees and host countries. The course also analyses the regional systems of refugee protection with the help of selected case studies. The course is based on a dynamic pedagogy including reading materials, video clips, case studies, and interactive webinars with the instructor as well as practitioners from NGOs and officials of UNHCR. The course will be held from 26 May to 6 June 2010.

[For further information](#) – HREA

Rentrée académique 2010 : Master interdisciplinaire en droits de l'enfant (MIDE), 2^{ème} : «L'enfance d'un nouveau contrat social»

L'institut universitaire Kurt Bösch (IUKB) en collaboration avec l'Université de Fribourg lancent la troisième volée du Master interdisciplinaire en droits de l'enfant (MIDE). Les deux premières volées ont démontré l'intérêt réel et croissant de cette nouvelle filière d'études et ont généré un enthousiasme intense dans les cercles académiques et professionnels qui connaissent le contenu du programme ou côtoient les étudiant(e)s du MIDE. Le MIDE est organisé autour d'un projet pédagogique interdisciplinaire innovant qui s'appuie sur des connaissances démontrées en matière de droits de l'enfant et sur des expériences acquises dans l'offre d'autres formations universitaires, notamment le Master of Advanced Studies in Children's Rights. Le profil pluridisciplinaire du corps enseignant et des collaborateurs, son implication dans de multiples réseaux académiques et professionnels, ainsi que les échanges nourris avec l'Institut international des droits de l'enfant (IDE) à Sion, garantissent le dynamisme et la pertinence de la formation.

[Pour plus d'information](#) – IUKB

Human Rights Summer Program at Columbia University

Columbia University's Institute for the Study of Human Rights is pleased to announce that the following courses will be offered during the 2010 Summer Program:

- Session I (May 24-July 2): Introduction to Human Rights and International Law and Human Rights.
- Session II (July 6-August 13): Corporate Social Responsibility: A Human Rights Approach and Human Rights for Women.

Application Deadlines: May 13 for Session I and June 23 for Session II.

[For further information](#) – Columbia University ISHR

World Organisation against Torture (OMCT) vacancy: Secretary-General

The World Organisation against Torture (OMCT), the largest international coalition of non-governmental organisations fighting against torture, summary executions, forced disappearance and all other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, is currently seeking to recruit its next Secretary-General to succeed its current Secretary-General, who will retire in August 2011. The new Secretary-General will work together with the incumbent for one year to ensure a smooth transition, during which he/she will function as the second officer of the Organisation. The successful candidate will be expected to take up his/her duty on 1 September 2010. The application deadline is on 31st of May 2010. For further information, read the [full job description](#).

2. MENA Regional Child Related Activities (events, conferences, news, vacancies, announcements, reportages, campaigns)

Al Mezan Concludes a Training Course Entitled 'Human Rights and the International Humanitarian Law (IHL): Basic Concepts'

18 April 2010 – On Sunday 18 April 2010, Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights concluded a training workshop entitled 'Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (IHL): Basic Concepts'. The importance of this training course as the first step towards enhancing human rights concepts to the participants, particularly women's and children's rights. This group of trainees would start using children's rights and human rights concepts in their activities with children.

[Full article](#) – Al Mezan Center of Human Rights

Children's international Conference 'Protective environment- Active participation'

The objectives of the conference are to provide a platform for experts and activists in the field of child rights to describe and share experiences and discuss the best ways to promote active child participation without affecting the children's enjoyment of their right to protection. To Shed light on the reality of child protection and participation in their communities, as well as the obstacles that inhibit the achievement of active child participation and to Provide an opportunity to strengthen cooperation between institutions and local and international organizations active in the field of child rights. This conference will be held from 10 to 11 November 2010 in Bethlehem.

[For further information](#)

Employment by UNICEF (Iraq, Baghdad)

UNICEF is seeking Child Protection Officer (P-2) in Baghdad, Iraq. The Child Protection Officer under the supervision of the Child protection Specialist will contribute to the design, planning, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the UNICEF Iraq Child Protection and Participation Section project for the provision of Community Based Protection Services focusing on: Community Based Psychosocial Support, Mine Risk Education and Prevention and Response to Gender Based Violence. To apply visit <http://www.unicef.org/about/employ> to register in their e-Recruitment system and apply, quoting E-VN-2010-000611. The application deadline is 23th of April 2010.

3. Sub-Regional and country updates:

In the Levant:

Iraq – Population Displaced from Iraq Emergency Appeal No. MDR81002 - Interim final report

29 April 2010 – A comprehensive list of essential medicines and medical supplies was prepared by the International Federation and adopted by the Jordan RC to serve as a standard reference list for procurement and prescription. The BHCs provided health services to all the externally displaced Iraqis regardless of their legal residency in Jordan or their registration under United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The number

of consultation carried out by the BHCs till the end of December 2009 was 60,678. Continuous observation and data analysis showed that there was no disease outbreak among the displaced Iraqis; 12% of consultations were children under the age of five; and 54% of the adults were women. Considering the special social and psychological situation of the displaced Iraqi, the International Federation focused on the psycho-social services provided to displaced people.

[Full article](#) – IFRC

[Full Report](#)

Israel – Indoctrinating Israeli Youths to be Warriors

8 April 2010 – New Profile is a "Movement for the Civilization of Israeli Society" away from militarism and a culture of violence. In July 2004, its report titled, "Child Recruitment in Israel" examined how Israeli armed forces and Jewish militias indoctrinate young children to be warriors, a practice they believe essential to stop. In July 2004, its report titled, "Child Recruitment in Israel" examined how Israeli armed forces and Jewish militias indoctrinate young children to be warriors, a practice they believe essential to stop. Symbolic recruitment precedes conscription. It consists of indoctrinating youths to feel part of the military, mobilized for war, ready for combat, and eager to participate. Besides ordinary ones, some military high schools include. Courses combine civilian and military studies, children being groomed to become soldiers. In all Israeli high schools, mandatory Youth Battalion Training Week simulates army life for 11th and 12th graders on military bases. Arranged through schools, children are enlisted to support the IDF, especially during times of emergency or special needs. About 15% of Guard volunteers are children, eligible at age 15 to join in a restricted status that's removed a year later. Israel's GSS recruits Palestinian informants, including children, for field agents to provide intelligence - collaborators most Palestinians call traitors "worthy of death."

[Full article](#) – Baltimore Chronicle & Sentinel

Israel/ Occupied Palestinian Territories (Opt) – Soldiers shoot to death two youths; in a rare step, army opens investigation

6 April 2010 – On 20 March 2010, soldiers killed two youths in the village of 'Iraq Burin, near Nablus. On Saturday, 20 March '10, in the middle of the day, villagers demonstrated in 'Iraq Burin, mostly in the eastern section of the village. During the demonstration, stones were thrown at soldiers and border policemen. Muhammad Qadus, 15, and Usaid Qadus, 17, residents of the village noticed a friend of his among the group of people standing by the roadside, about 100 meters west of the jeeps, and joined him. Mere moments after that, Usaid was struck by a single shot in the head. As Muhammad ran to him immediately, and was struck by a single shot in the chest.

[Full article](#) – EMHRN

Israel/Opt – Protecting the rights of Palestinian children affected by armed conflicts through community-based mechanism in the Gaza Strip

April 2010 – In attempt to improve the protection mechanisms of Palestinian children affected by armed conflict in Gaza, and as part of a regional project implemented with local partner in Gaza and in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, Save the Children Sweden has teamed up with the Palestinian Center of Democracy and Conflict Resolution and 25 other

local Community Based Organizations in various part of the Gaza Strip to address some of the main challenges undermining the protection of children's rights. This fact sheet looks at some of the activities implemented in this project and gives a brief account of the main accomplishments so far.

[Full report](#) – Save the children Sweden

Israel/Opt – Israel and the occupied territories: violence claims more lives as blockade continues to stifle Gaza

29 April 2010 – The beginning of 2010 was marred by violence occurring during Israeli incursions in Gaza and law-enforcement operations in the West Bank that claimed the lives of several civilians. The ICRC has employed Gazans to help with a survey of children experiencing speech difficulties, which can result from stress and anxiety linked to exposure to armed conflict. The ICRC trained unskilled workers to help specialists identify children suffering from such difficulties in Gaza's schools. The children were then referred to a specialized centre for detailed evaluation and speech therapy, both of which are paid for by the ICRC. In the first phase of the project nearly 90,000 pupils were examined, of whom around nine per cent had speech disorders.

[Full article](#) – ICRC

Israel/Opt – Emboldened by impunity: Israel kills two children at Ein al Beid

29 April 2010 – An Israeli military jeep rammed into a tractor of a Palestinian family, killing two little girls and injuring their father and brother. People from the area rule out that this was a simple accident but see it as yet another act of willful killing by the occupation forces: the tractor was stationed some 15 meters away from the settler highway n. 90, on which the military jeep was driving.

[Full article](#) – MECA

Israel/Opt – Palestinian Child Day 2010

5 April 2010 – Palestinian Child Day comes on 5 April of each year. On this day, the Palestinian community celebrates children, who represent the present and the future of society. This year, once again, this occasion comes at a time when Palestinian children still suffer not only from the violence and brutality of the occupation, but also from Palestinian internal strife. Palestinian Child Day comes on 5 April of each year. On this day, the Palestinian community celebrates children, who represent the present and the future of society. This year, once again, this occasion comes at a time when Palestinian children still suffer not only from the violence and brutality of the occupation, but also from Palestinian internal strife.

[Full article](#) – MECA

[Similar article](#) – Save the children Sweden

Israel/Opt – One Laptop Per Child and UNRWA Partner to Provide Laptops for Palestinian Children

29 April 2010 – One Laptop per child (OLPC), a non-profit organization whose mission is to help provide every child in the world access to a modern education, is partnering with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

(UNRWA) to bring new learning opportunities to nearly half a million Palestine refugee children by 2012. The distribution of XO laptops in UNRWA schools is fundamental to OLPC's mission to give connected, power-efficient and robust laptops to children around the world, especially those who have been displaced by conflict and those living in extreme poverty. Child ownership and the saturation of laptops in a community are fundamental steps in providing ubiquitous access to digital information technology and extending education beyond the school walls.

[Full Article](#) – UNRWA

[Similar article](#) – BBC

Israel/Opt – DCI-Palestine releases video on soldier and settler violence

30 April 2010 – Today, DCI-Palestine is launching a short film which tells the story of Jameel, a 16-year-old boy from Tel Rumeida, Hebron. On 13 July 2009, Jameel was detained and beaten by soldiers near his home for no apparent reason, tied and blindfolded at a checkpoint nearby and allowed to be beaten by settlers and soldiers as well as have stones thrown at him, while his parents watched on nearby but were prevented from helping him.

[Full article](#) – DCI/PS

Jordan – Mechanic receives seven years in prison for child molestation

29 April 2010 – The Criminal Court on Wednesday sentenced a 27-year-old mechanic to seven years in prison after convicting him of molesting a child in May 2009. The court said the victim was playing in the backyard of her house with other children when the defendant entered the yard, claiming that he was looking for a ball. “The defendant decided to molest the child, so he grabbed her and touched her,” the court verdict said.

[Full article](#) – The Jordan Time

Jordan – Women activists in Jordan applauded the new law for gender equality

3 May 2010 – Women activists in Jordan are making all the necessary sounds of appreciation in response to the draft Personal Status Law in an effort to encourage the latest series of baby steps towards redressing the imbalance of rights enjoyed by men and women in Jordan. The painful process that led to this latest round of concessions from the paternalistic system governing marriage, inheritance, child support and the rights of family - especially women and children - in general does not bode well for the progress of the movement for women's or children's rights in Jordan.

[Full article](#) – The Jordan Time

Jordan – Picture of hope: project to help children express them selves

26 April 2010 – Severely abused children residing at Dar Al Aman, the child safety centre affiliated with the Jordan River Foundation (JRF), take part in a project designed to enhance their communication abilities. The ‘picture of hope’ project, which JRF developed and launched in August 2009, helps abused children express their feelings of anger, fear and hope through art and consequently visualise and live a better life by conquering the pains of their abuse.

[Full article](#) – The Jordan Time

Lebanon – Lebanese children submit first child-led report to UN

9 April 2010 – From cluster bombs to child labour, Lebanese children have shed light on the issues affecting children in Lebanon in an unprecedented child-led report submitted to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva. They “decided to research about cluster bombs and landmines and how this situation affects the lives of children in Lebanon”. In the report, children also “wrote about street children in the report” and highlighted issues such child labour, children with no identification/unregistered at birth, children with disabilities and violence against children”. Conducted as part of World Vision's project 'Children make their voices heard to the United Nations', the initiative aims to give children the opportunity to write with their own words a report on child rights and submit it to the UN. The report submitted to the United Nations will be part of a final UNHRC report called the 'Stakeholder Report'.

[Full Article](#)

Opt - PCHR Concludes a Human Rights Training Course in Gaza

01 April 2010 – On Thursday, 01 April 2010, the Training Unit in the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR) concluded a training course in the field of human rights and gender issues, which was organized in cooperation with the Fares al-Arab Society in Gaza City. The 20-hour course was held in the office of the Society in Rafah in the period 28 March – 01 April 2010. The number of participants in the course was 23 persons, representing 10 community-based organizations in Gaza City. The course focused on a number of international human rights instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; Convention on the Rights of the Child; and Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as the rule of law, the independence of the judiciary, political participation and gender issues. The training was conducted by a number of specialized trainers from PCHR.

[Full article](#) – Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

Syria – Keeping poor Syrian children in school

23 April 2010 – Education in Syria is free up to the end of preparatory school, for children aged six to 12, and it is compulsory. But recent statistics show about 18% of school children drop out. But recent statistics show about 18% of school children drop out. This is double the average for counties in the Middle East and North Africa. The Syrian government is trying to offer incentives to people to keep their children in school. Laws and programmes to keep children in schools may not be enough to improve children's rights in Syria. Some argue that society needs to change as well as the educational system. UNICEF is working to provide support for schools, in co-operation with the ministry of education. UNICEF's chief of mission in Syria Sherazade Boualia says the agency is running a programme to support schools in some of the most deprived areas in the country. The project is designed to offer students a more engaging experience than traditional education.

[Full article](#) – BBC

North Africa:

Algérie – Pédopsychiatrie : Une spécialité marginalisée

25 avril 2010 – La pédopsychiatrie, cette spécialité médicale qui traite les troubles mentaux chez l'enfant et l'adolescent, devrait être enseignée à l'Université algérienne comme une spécialité autonome et non en tant qu'option, a estimé le pédopsychiatre Ould-Taleb, lors de la 6e rencontre de pédopsychiatrie organisée à l'INSP, dont les thèmes ont porté sur les troubles anxieux chez l'enfant et l'adolescent, les maltraitances, la surdité et l'autisme.

[Article complet](#) – El Watan

Algérie – Les clowns, au grand bonheur des enfants

6 avril 2010 – La direction de la culture de la wilaya de Tipasa vient de prendre l'initiative en faveur des enfants des 28 communes de la wilaya. En effet, le trio Besma de Bou Ismail et l'association pour théâtre pour enfants Tej vont sillonner les communes de la wilaya pour présenter leurs spectacles chaque après-midi du mardi pendant la période allant du 6 avril jusqu'au 8 juin prochains. A travers leurs spectacles respectifs, les clowns de Besma et les marionnettes de Tej vont égayer, en ces journées printanières, les enfants, y compris ceux qui vivent dans les communes rurales les plus reculées de la wilaya.

[Article complet](#) – El Watan

Egypt – Guaranteeing rights for children

27 April 2010 – Egypt was one of the first signatories of the convention and it has also ratified the optional protocols. The Egyptian government has succeeded in reducing maternal and infant mortality rates significantly over the past 20 years, to the point that the country is on track to meet the Millennium Development Goal of Reducing Child Mortality by 2015. Moreover, Egypt has eradicated polio and is no longer facing endemic maternal and neonatal tetanus.

[Full article](#) – Al-Ahram weekly

Libye – Objectifs du millénaire pour le développement: Premier rapport en Libye

14 avril 2010 – Le premier rapport sur les Objectifs du millénaire pour le développement (OMD) en Libye a été lancé mardi le 13 avril à Tripoli. Les OMD résultent de l'engagement de 189 pays pris lors du Sommet mondial, fin 2000, d'exécuter une stratégie visant à améliorer le niveau de vie des populations d'ici 2015. Les OMD résultent de l'engagement de 189 pays pris lors du Sommet mondial, fin 2000, d'exécuter une stratégie visant à améliorer le niveau de vie des populations d'ici 2015. Il s'agit de 8 objectifs de développement économique et social dont les principaux consistent à réduire l'extrême pauvreté et la faim et à assurer l'éducation primaire pour tous. Promouvoir l'égalité des sexes et l'autonomisation des femmes, réduire la mortalité infantile, améliorer la santé maternelle, combattre le VIH/SIDA, le paludisme et autres maladies, assurer un environnement durable et mettre en place un partenariat mondial pour le développement, figurent aussi parmi les OMD.

[Article complet](#) – Afrique en ligne

Libye – Réunion à Tripoli sur les droits de l'enfant libyen

22 avril 2010 – Une réunion élargie entre la Libye et le Fonds des Nations unies pour l'enfance (UNICEF) sur l'activation des perspectives de coopération dans le cadre d'un

partenariat permanent pour les droits de l'enfant libyen s'est déroulée mercredi à Tripoli. Cette rencontre vise à promouvoir les efforts de la Libye pour réaliser des taux supérieurs de développement dans l'enseignement et la santé pour les enfants.

[Article complet](#) – Afrique en ligne

Libye – Une exposition de dessins d'enfants arabes à Tripoli

25 mars 2010 – Une exposition de dessins d'enfants de 10 à 14 ans a débuté mercredi le 24 mars au théâtre de l'école Tagherfet de Tripoli, la capitale libyenne, ayant pour thème "Ma grande patrie". Des enfants venus d'Algérie, du Soudan, du Maroc, de la Palestine, d'Oman et de Libye participent à ce concours de dessins. Cette manifestation vise à consolider les relations fraternelles et les liens entre les enfants arabes et à leur offrir une opportunité de dialogue, d'intégration et d'interaction véritable avec les questions déterminantes et l'élargissement de l'éveil chez cette frange de la société arabe.

[Article complet](#) – Afrique en ligne

Maroc – Comment la presse traite du thème des enfants

14 April 2010 – Petites bonnes, viol, pédophilie, agression sexuelle : c'est plus le thème vendeur que la qualité du traitement qui rend un article éligible à la publication. Ils ont rarement droit à la parole pour des faits les concernant et leur droit à l'image est bafoué. L'image renvoyée par la presse écrite marocaine sur l'enfant n'est pas réjouissante et ne respecte pas sa dignité et ses droits.

[Article complet](#) – Observatoire national des droits de l'Enfant

Maroc – Les enfants de Bayti participent à la première édition de Fraternity Cup

22 avril 2010 – Jusqu'au 25 avril à Paris, 112 jeunes footballeurs venus du monde entier célèbreront les Droits de l'enfant lors de la coupe de la fraternité. À l'aube de la Coupe du monde de football qui se jouera pour la première fois sur le continent africain, l'ONG Voix de l'enfant organise un tournoi de football inédit du 18 au 25 avril 2010 intitulé la Coupe de la fraternité. Ce tournoi vise à contribuer à la promotion des droits de l'enfant et du dialogue interculturel par le biais du sport et des loisirs.

[Article complet](#) – BAYTI

Maroc – Accord entre le HCP, l'UNICEF et l'ONDE pour la collecte, l'analyse et la diffusion de données relatives à l'enfance

8 avril 2010 – Le Haut commissariat au plan (HCP), l'UNICEF et l'Observatoire national des droits de l'enfant (ONDE) ont signé, mardi à Rabat, un mémorandum d'accord pour la collecte, l'analyse et la diffusion de données relatives à l'enfance. Les trois parties conviennent également, en vertu de cet accord, de réaliser une enquête sur l'impact social des migrations et des transferts de migrants sur les enfants, dont les résultats permettront de formuler des recommandations en matière des politiques de protection sociale

[Article complet](#) – Observatoire national des droits de l'Enfant

Tunisie – Le Chef de l'Etat ordonne la mise en place d'une commission nationale pour l'élaboration d'une étude sur la jeunesse

29 avril 2010 – Le Président Zine El Abidine Ben Ali a ordonné de mettre sur pied une commission nationale chargée de l'élaboration d'une étude globale sur la jeunesse tunisienne "Réalité et perspectives", en collaboration avec tous les ministères, structures et parties concernés. Le chef de l'Etat a, également, pris connaissance des programmes estivaux destinés aux jeunes, recommandant, à cet égard, d'accorder une meilleure attention, notamment, aux jeunes issus des quartiers populaires et aux enfants de tunisiens résidant à l'étranger.

[Article complet](#) – La présidence de la république tunisienne

In the Gulf:

Bahrain – Children's play to mark Orphan Day

02 April 2010 – A children's play marking the Arab Orphan Day will open today at the Ibn Khaldoun Social Center, Arad. The Arabic play, three Adventurers, is being staged by the Royal Charity Organization (RCO). The play will be open for all children free of charge today and tomorrow, with two shows being held at 4.30pm and 6.15pm.

For more information – Gulf Daily News

Bahrain – Sports camp for children

06 April 2010 – More than 100 children are taking part this week in an annual Easter sports camp at Bahrain Rugby Football Club, Saar. Children, aged six to 14, are taking part in a variety of activities, including football, rugby, netball, swimming, dodge ball, netball, basketball and cricket as well as an overnight camp at the club being held tomorrow.

[Full article](#) – Gulf Daily News

Saudi Arabia – Saudi to join international agreement for protecting rights of children

13 April 2010 – Saudi Arabia is to join an international agreement for protecting the rights of children. The Shoura Council adopted a decision to the purpose on Sunday. The agreement, known as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, guarantees the protection of children from being sold, prostituted, and used in pornography and armed conflicts. The Shoura Council's decision will be submitted to senior authorities for further action. In a press statement, the Shoura's secretary-general, Abdullah Al Ghamdi, said the majority of the council's members voted in favour of joining the agreement.

[Full article](#) – Khaleej Times

Yemen – Measles, polio vaccination drive targets Saada children

19 April 2010 – A 12-day measles and child polio vaccination campaign began on 17 April in parts of the troubled northern Yemeni governorate of Saada, targeting over 209,000 children, health officials say. The campaign began with the vaccination of children in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps in Saada city, adding that eventually all children in the governorate would be vaccinated, "including those living with their families in IDP camps and outside the camps. It said only 26,525 children in Saada Governorate, mostly in IDP camps, had been vaccinated against measles, adding that "thousands of children were

deprived of the vaccine as their areas remained inaccessible." "Yemen was about to be declared a measles-free country, but too many infected cases have been reported in Saada," Omar Mujalli, deputy minister of public health and population, said at the launch of the campaign.

[Full article](#) – IRIN

Yemen – Deep divisions over child brides

1 April 2010 – Prior to the unification of Yemen in 1990, the law set the minimum age of marriage at 16 in South Yemen and 15 in the north. After unification, the law was set at 15. In 1999, the civil status law was amended and the minimum age was abolished. However, according to Shada Mohammed Nasser, an attorney at the Supreme Court who has worked on several child bride cases, the law stipulates that a girl should not sleep with her husband until she is mature. "But the law is not enforced," said Nasser. In Yemen 48 percent of girls are married when they are under 18. This, according to The Convention on the Rights of the Child which Yemen has signed and ratified, is "under age". The lack of a reliable birth registration system in Yemen might hamper the implementation of the law; some parents might lie about their child's age, say experts. The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) says an effective birth registration system is fundamental to the realization of a number of rights and practical needs.

[Full article](#) – IRIN

Yemen – Child bride dies of bleeding after intercourse

8 April 2010 – 13-year-old Yemeni girl who was forced into marriage died five days after her wedding when she suffered a rupture in her internal organs and hemorrhaging, a local rights organisation said today. Her death was a "flagrant example" of the results of opposing the ban on child marriage in Yemen, which was leading to "killing child females," it said. The death of a 12-year-old girl in childbirth in September illustrated the case of the country's "brides of death," many of whom were married off even before puberty. Controversy heightened in Yemen recently over a law banning child marriage in the impoverished country through setting a minimum age of 17 for women and 18 for men.

[Full article](#) – CRIN

Yemen – Investigate Laws-of-War Violations

7 April 2010 – The Yemeni government and Huthi rebels should investigate alleged violations of the laws of war during the recent conflict and hold all those responsible to account, Human Rights Watch said in a [report](#) released on April 7th. Both sides used children in combat, in violation of international law. Since the beginning of the sixth round of fighting in mid-August 2009, artillery shelling by both sides and government aerial bombardments have killed hundreds of civilians, injured many more, and in some cases the fighting destroyed entire villages. International aid agencies were struggling to assist even a small fraction of the roughly 265,000 people - most of them women and children - displaced from their homes in this and earlier rounds of fighting.

[Full article](#) – Human Rights Watch

[Full report](#)

Yemen – Funding crisis forces UN agency to cut food rations for conflict-affected Yemenis

28 April 2010 – The United Nations food agency will be forced to cut rations for tens of thousands of people affected by the conflict in north-western Yemen starting this Saturday because stocks have dwindled as a result of limited funding. The decision to cut rations by half was made in consultation with the Yemeni Government and is the only way to ensure that available food stocks last until the end of August. The UN World Food Programme's (WFP) relief effort in Sa'ada is not the only one facing severe funding shortage. The agency's operations in the rest of Yemen are struggling with a 75 per cent shortfall in total estimated requirements for 2010, which means that nearly 96,000 tons of food required for more than 3.4 million refugees, malnourished children, pregnant mothers and other needy people is not available.

[Full article](#) (UN News Centre)